

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 4 and 18-33, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of treating cardiac disease in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound or agent that blocks or otherwise specifically inhibits mammalian Ste20-like kinase (Mst1) or the Mst1 pathway.
2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said compound or agent is an Mst1 inhibitor.
3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the Mst1 inhibitor is selected from the group of a dominant negative mutant of Mst1, ~~an inhibitor of caspase, an inhibitor of apoptosis,~~ antisense oligonucleotide complementary to Mst1, siRNA to Mst1 and a ribozyme directed against Mst1.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

5. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said compound or agent inhibits a protein that phosphorylates Mst1, cleaves Mst1 to generate active Mst1, or activates an Mst1 phosphatase.
6. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said cardiac disease is selected from the group of congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy, including ischemic and nonischemic cardiomyopathy, coronary artery disease, arrhythmias, fibrosis of the heart, valve defects, atherosclerosis, and instances where facilitation of enhanced heart function or maintenance of cardiac myocytes is desired.
7. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said mammal is a human.
8. (currently amended) A method of modulating cardiac myocyte apoptosis in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound or agent that

blocks or otherwise specifically inhibits Mst1 ~~or the Mst1 pathway~~.

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein the Mst1 inhibitor is selected from the group of a dominant negative mutant of Mst1, ~~an inhibitor of caspase, an inhibitor of apoptosis~~, antisense oligonucleotide complementary to Mst1, siRNA to Mst1 and a ribozyme directed against Mst1.

10. (currently amended) A method for reducing cardiomyopathy in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of ~~an~~ specific Mst1 inhibitor.

11. (currently amended) A method for treating cardiac disease in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a specific Mst1 inhibitor in combination with one or more other compound for treatment of cardiac disease or of atherosclerosis.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said one or more other compound selected from the group of a beta-blocker, nitrate, calcium channel antagonists, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, an anti-platelet drug, diuretics, digoxin and antilipemic agents, agents which alter cholesterol or lipid metabolism.

13. (currently amended) A method for reducing the risk of cardiomyopathy or cardiac dysfunction in a mammal wherein said mammal has suffered a myocardial infarct or other coronary event wherein blood flow to the heart is reduced comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of ~~an~~ specific Mst1 inhibitor ~~or Mst1 pathway inhibitor~~.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 13 wherein the Mst1 inhibitor is selected from the group of a dominant negative mutant of Mst1, ~~an inhibitor of caspase, an inhibitor of apoptosis~~, antisense oligonucleotide complementary to Mst1, siRNA to Mst1 and a ribozyme directed against Mst1.

15. (currently amended) A method of cardioprotection, wherein ~~an~~ specific inhibitor of Mst1 is

administered in conjunction with or following therapy with a compound or drug which is cardiotoxic.

16. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15 wherein said compound is a chemotherapeutic agent, particularly an anti-cancer or anti-tumor agent.

17. (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein said chemotherapeutic agent is doxorubicin.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (cancelled)

Claim 26 (cancelled)

Claim 27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (cancelled)

Claim 30 (cancelled)

Claim 31 (cancelled)

Claim 32 (cancelled)

Claim 33 (cancelled)